

# VETERANS

BENEFITS & SERVICES



To better assist you, the veterans information listed in this booklet has been organized into 3 levels of available Veterans programs – **FEDERAL, STATE, and LOCAL**.

Much of the information contained in this booklet comes from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website at **www.va.gov**. For state and local information, visit **www.michigan.gov** and **www.michigan.gov/mvaa**.

This booklet also provides valuable federal, state, and local veteran contact information.

Prepared by the Michigan Legislature

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# Dear Veteran

## Thank You for Your Service . . .

It is indeed a pleasure to serve veterans who gave so much of themselves to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. Your sacrifices have given us the security of peace in our homeland and abroad, as well as preserved and protected our constitutional right of self-government, for which we are very grateful.



This booklet compiles material from federal, state, and local agencies for you, our veterans and your families, to:

- Provide information about benefits and services
- Provide links to direct sources – computer-based and professional – for answers to specific questions
- Assist in communicating more effectively with your elected representatives
- Educate state, nonprofit, and community providers about benefits and services available through other agencies or service providers

Eligibility for most Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. Active service means full-time service as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, or as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Current and former members of the Selected Reserve and National Guard may be eligible for benefits.

Any Michigan veteran, or dependent of a veteran, can request the assistance of a Veterans Service Officer or County Counselor. See page 44 for the listing of Veterans Service Organizations.

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency can be reached at **1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838)** or visit the website at **[www.michigan.gov/mvaa](http://www.michigan.gov/mvaa)**. The Federal Veterans Affairs Benefits and Services number is **1-800-827-1000**.

This booklet provides information about many of the programs and services available for you and your family. To obtain the reference benefits, please contact the included sources.

Thank you for your service.



*Information on eligibility for military service benefits is available from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, or your County Veterans Service Office.*

# Education and Training

## Education and Training – U.S. Federal Programs

### ***Post-9/11 GI Bill***

The Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) is an education benefit program for service members and veterans who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Benefits are payable for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009. No payments can be made under this program for training pursued before that date.

To be eligible, the service member or veteran must serve at least 90 aggregate days on active duty after September 10, 2001, and remain on active duty or be honorably discharged.

Veterans may also be eligible if they were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001. Eligibility also extends to veterans who received a Purple Heart and were honorably discharged.

Generally, service members or veterans may receive up to 36 months of VA education benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits do not expire for service members released from active duty after January 1, 2013 per the Forever GI Bill enacted in 2017. For individuals who left service prior to January 1, 2013, there is a 15-year time limit for the use of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

The Forever GI Bill also allows for the use of benefits to pay for work study activities and technical education schools; the restoration of education benefits lost after the ending of the Reserve Educational Assistance Program; an increase of educational assistance under the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program; and changes to monthly housing allowances.

**[www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11](http://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11)**

### ***Transfer of Education Benefits***

The Department of Defense (DoD) may offer members of the Armed Forces on or after August 1, 2009, the opportunity to transfer Chapter 33 benefits to a spouse or dependent children. DoD and the military services must approve all requests for this benefit. In order to transfer benefits, members on active duty or in the Selected Reserve must have completed at least six years of service, agree to serve four more years, and the individual receiving the benefits must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. Transferable benefits include money to pay for tuition, housing, books, supplies, and fees for national standardized tests and licensing and certifications. Spouses may use these benefits either while the service member is on active duty or after they have separated from service. Children may begin to use the benefits after the service member has completed at least 10 years of service.



## ***The Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program***

The Yellow Ribbon Program was enacted to assist eligible veterans and their dependants by helping pay for out-of-state, private school, or graduate school tuition and fees. To be eligible, the student must be a veteran receiving Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits at the 100% benefit rate payable, or be a spouse or dependant child using benefits transferred by an active-service member or veteran.

The school of attendance must be an institution of higher learning that offers the program. The number of students that may receive the benefit and the amount the school's agreement with Veterans Affairs (VA). VA will match the school's contribution to reduce or eliminate out-of-pocket costs for eligible participants.

**[www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11/yellow-ribbon-program/](http://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11/yellow-ribbon-program/)**

## ***Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship***

This scholarship provides benefits for children and surviving spouses of members of the Armed Forces or Selected Reserve who died in the line of duty or from a service-connected disability on or after September 11, 2001. Benefits include up to 36 months of money for tuition, housing, books, and supplies.

**[www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/fry-scholarship/](http://www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/fry-scholarship/)**

## ***Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA)***

Children and spouses of veterans or service members who have died, are captured or missing, or are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability may qualify for educational benefits under the DEA program. Benefits include monthly payments to help cover the costs of college or graduate degree programs, career-training certificate courses, apprenticeships, on-the-job training, and educational and career counseling.

**[www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/dependents-education-assistance](http://www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/dependents-education-assistance)**

Dependents are not eligible for both the Fry Scholarship and DEA based on the same event. Unless a parent died prior to August 1, 2011, the child will be required to elect benefits from only one program.

## **Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (MGIB-AD)**

The Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (MGIB-AD) provides educational and training benefits to honorably discharged veterans who served at least two years on active duty. Eligible veterans must have a high school diploma, GED, or 12 hours of college credit. Veterans should visit the website below to review additional eligibility requirements.

Veterans who first entered active duty after June 30, 1985 and served continuously for at least two to four years, veterans with remaining entitlement under the Vietnam Era GI Bill (Chapter 34), veterans who were separated under the Voluntary Separation Incentive program of Special Separation Benefit program, and former Veterans Educational Assistance Program participants who elected to convert to MGIB during the open window periods may be eligible for MGIB-AD benefits.

Certain National Guard service members may also qualify if they served on full-time active duty in the National Guard between July 1, 1985 and November 28, 1989, elected to have National Guard service count toward establishing eligibility for MGIB during the 9-month window ending on July 9, 1997, and paid \$1,200.

Assistance may be used for college degree and certificate programs, technical or vocational courses, flight training, apprenticeships or on-the-job training, high-tech training, licensing and certification tests, entrepreneurship training, certain entrance examinations, and correspondence courses. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances. Benefits are generally payable for 10 years following your release from honorable active service.

Veterans who qualify for MGIB-AD benefits will receive a monthly payment amount based on the veteran's length of service, type of education or training program, eligibility factors, qualification for a college fund or kicker, and participation in the \$600 MGIB "Buy-Up" program. MGIB payments are made directly to the veteran, irrespective of the tuition and fees charged by the school.

Contact your county veterans service office or call the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at **1-888-442-4551** for further information, particularly on eligibility. Additional information for school officials, veterans, and dependents can be found on the VA's Education Services website.

**[www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/montgomery-active-duty/](http://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/montgomery-active-duty/)**  
**[www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/montgomery-active-duty/buy-up/](http://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/montgomery-active-duty/buy-up/)**

## **Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)**

The Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) provides up to 36 months of educational and training benefits to members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard, or Air National Guard.



To be eligible, services members must have completed initial active duty for training and have a high school diploma or GED. Service members must also remain in good standing and either have a six year service obligation in the Selected Reserve or be an officer in the Selected Reserve and agree to serve six years beyond the initial service obligation. Leaving the Selected Reserve terminates eligibility for the program, with some exceptions.

[www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/montgomery-selected-reserve/](http://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/montgomery-selected-reserve/)

## ***VetSuccess on Campus***

This program is designed to provide on-campus benefits assistance and readjustment counseling to veterans completing their college educations and beginning viable careers. An experienced Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and a Vet Center Outreach Coordinator are assigned at each campus to provide VA benefits outreach, support, and assistance to ensure their health, educational, and benefit needs are met.

Current Michigan locations include Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kellogg Community College, Eastern Michigan University, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, and Washtenaw Community College.

[www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/vsoc.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/vsoc.asp)

## ***Federal Pell Grant Program***

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income students to promote access to postsecondary education. Applicants must be undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's degree. Each applicant must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen and needs to have a high school diploma or a GED or demonstrate the ability to benefit from the program.

### ***Pell Grant Eligibility***

The U.S. Department of Education uses a standard formula established by Congress to evaluate the information a student supplies when applying for a Pell Grant. This formula produces an EFC (expected family contribution) number, which will determine if the student is eligible for the grant. The formula relies heavily on families' federal tax returns.

### ***Award Amount***

The amount of the Federal Pell Grant depends on the student's EFC, the cost of attendance, and other factors.

### ***How and When to Apply***

Students apply not only for Pell Grants, but for federal, state, and institutional financial aid programs by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA). States and colleges also use FASFA information to award their own grants, scholarships, and loans. The FASFA form is available online and must be submitted before July 1. Each state also has its own deadline for each academic year. Michigan's deadline for submission is May 1.

[www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)

## **Education and Training – State of Michigan Programs**

### ***MVAA Veteran-Friendly School Program***

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Veteran-Friendly School Program recognizes academic institutions of higher learning who are committed to supporting the needs of student veterans and their dependents. These institutions offer veteran-specific services such as career advising, on-campus veteran coordinators, evaluation of military training and experience with possible award of credit, and others. A full list of participating institutions can be found on the website.

**[www.michiganvets.force.com/veteranfriendlyschools/s/dashboard](http://www.michiganvets.force.com/veteranfriendlyschools/s/dashboard)**

### ***Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program***

Public Act 259 of 2014 established the Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program (MINGSTAP) to provide tuition assistance to active members of the Michigan National Guard who are attending any public or private college, university, vocational school, technical school, or trade school located in Michigan. Qualifying members of the Guard or their spouse or dependent can receive tuition assistance of up to \$6,000 for training, certificate, or master's degree programs and up to \$14,000 for associate or bachelor's degree programs.

**517-481-7640**

**[www.dmva.state.mi.us/mingstap](http://www.dmva.state.mi.us/mingstap)**



## **Educational Benefits for Children of Disabled or Deceased Veterans**

### ***Tuition Grant Program***

The Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG) was established under Public Act 248 of 2005 to provide an undergraduate tuition grant program for children of certain deceased or disabled members of the armed forces of the United States.

The program is designed to provide undergraduate tuition assistance to certain children older than 16 and less than 26 years of age who have been a Michigan resident for the 12 months prior to application. To be eligible, a student must be the natural or adopted child of a Michigan veteran. Stepchildren of the veteran are not eligible. The veteran must have been a legal resident of Michigan immediately before entering military service and must not have later resided outside of Michigan for more than two years; or the veteran must have established legal residency in Michigan after entering military service.

Students may receive scholarship assistance for up to four academic years and a total of up to \$11,200, whichever comes first. Awards are determined by the student's enrollment status.

**1-888-447-2687**

**[www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid/programs/children-of-veterans-tuition-grant](http://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid/programs/children-of-veterans-tuition-grant)**

# Employment

## Employment – U.S. Federal Programs

### ***Transition Assistance Program (TAP)***

The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) was established to meet the needs of service members and their families during their transition from military service into civilian life. The program provides trainings and workshops on finding employment, navigating resources, and beginning financial planning.

The program includes a mandatory, one-day, in-person or online course called VA Benefits and Services. The course educates veterans on the benefits and services available to them, and covers topics such as family support, disability compensation, education, and health care benefits.

A TAP virtual curriculum is available to service members who are unable to attend the TAP in person due to military exigencies.

[www.benefits.va.gov/transition/tap.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/transition/tap.asp)  
[www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/tap](http://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/tap)  
[www.tapevents.mil/courses](http://www.tapevents.mil/courses)

### ***Veterans Preference for Federal Jobs***

Certain veterans, principally those who are disabled or who served on active duty during specified times, are entitled to preference for federal civil service jobs when hiring is from competitive lists of eligible candidates.

Preference is also provided for certain widows and widowers of deceased veterans who died in service; spouses of service-connected disabled veterans; and mothers of veterans who died under honorable conditions on active duty or have permanent and total service-connected disabilities.

[www.fedshirevets.gov](http://www.fedshirevets.gov)  
[www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)

### ***The Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Program***

The Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Program provides counseling services for veterans and service members who have a service-connected disability that impacts their ability to work. The program aims to help veterans and service members get education or training, find and keep a job, and live as independently as possible.

#### ***Eligibility***

Educational and vocational counseling services are available to honorably discharged veterans who have a service-connected disability rating of at least 10% from VA. Veterans discharged from active duty before January 1, 2013 have a 12 year eligibility period. Veterans discharged after do not have a time limit on eligibility. Service members on active duty may be eligible for the program if they have a 20% or higher pre-discharge disability rating and will soon leave the military or if they are waiting to be discharged because of a severe illness or injury that occurred while on active duty.

[www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation](http://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation)

### ***Homeless Veterans Community Employment Services***

Homeless Veterans Community Employment Services (HVCES) is an employment program aimed at helping job-ready veterans exiting homelessness and those on the brink of homelessness gain stable and long-term employment. Community Employment

## Employment

Coordinators work with local employers to identify suitable jobs based on a veteran's skills and abilities. Community Employment Coordinators work out of VA Medical Centers and are responsible for connecting homeless and at-risk veterans to appropriate VA and community-based employment services.

[www.va.gov/homeless/hvces.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/hvces.asp)

### **Reemployment Rights**

Under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, a person who left a civilian job to enter active duty in the armed forces may be entitled to return to the job after discharge or release from active duty.

To be reemployed, four requirements must be met:

- The person must give advance notice of military service to the employer
- The cumulative absence from the civilian job shall not exceed five years (with some exceptions)
- The person must submit a timely application for reemployment
- The person must not have been released with a dishonorable or other punitive discharge

The law calls for the returning veteran to be placed in the job as if the veteran had remained continuously employed. This means that the person may be entitled to benefits that are based on seniority, such as pensions, pay increases, and promotions. The law also prohibits discrimination in hiring, promotion, or other advantages of employment on the basis of military service.

Applications for reemployment should be given, verbally or in writing, to a person authorized to represent the company for hiring purposes. A record should be kept of the application. If there are problems gaining reemployment, the employee should contact the **Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)**. Reemployment rights apply to private sector, as well as state, local, and federal government employees, including the Postal Service.

**1-866-487-2365**

[www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/userra](http://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/userra)

## **Employment – State of Michigan Programs**

### **MVAA Veteran-Friendly Employer Program (VFE)**

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency created the Veteran-Friendly Employer Program to recognize employers that commit to military veteran recruitment, training, and retention practices. The program also assists employers in attracting veteran talent to their workplaces.

[www.michigan.gov/mvaa/employment-new/panel-veterans/friendly-emp](http://www.michigan.gov/mvaa/employment-new/panel-veterans/friendly-emp)

### **Pure Michigan Talent Connect**

Michigan has recreated its labor exchange system under Pure Michigan Talent Connect. Talent Connect allows employers to connect to qualified talent and assists job seekers in finding job opportunities, education, and training. Talent Connect includes specific assistance for veterans to make a successful transition from military to civilian employment.

**Customer Service Center 1-888-522-0103**

[www.mitalent.org](http://www.mitalent.org)



## **Occupational Licensing**

The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) provides licensing resources for veterans, including counting military experience toward qualifications required for certain occupational licenses, waiving fees, exempting continuing education requirements, and granting temporary licenses for military spouses.

**[www.michigan.gov/lara/about/veterans](http://www.michigan.gov/lara/about/veterans)**

## **Workforce Development Agency**

The Workforce Development Agency's Veterans' Employment Services provides program-specific services to eligible veterans and spouses who are unable to obtain employment. Individualized, one-on-one career services are provided at Michigan Works! Service Centers.

For additional information on training and employment services available to veterans, contact your local **Michigan Works! Service Center**.

**1-800-285-WORK (9675)**

**[www.michiganworks.org/michigan-works-network](http://www.michiganworks.org/michigan-works-network)**



## **Unemployment Compensation**

Honorably discharged veterans may be eligible to receive weekly unemployment compensation after completing a full term of service. Veterans must file a claim on or after the date shown in item 12(b) on their Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. Claims must be filed with the Unemployment Insurance Agency.

**1-866-500-0017**

**[www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/uia](http://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/uia)**

## **Reemployment Rights for Veterans**

Michigan Compiled Law 32.273 provides reemployment protection for military service members. The statute provides employment protections to individuals who request a leave of absence from their employer for the purpose of being inducted into or entering military service. Under the statute, individuals who are reemployed are entitled to the seniority-based rights and benefits they would have otherwise been entitled to, as well as other rights provided to employees on a leave of absence. Under certain circumstances, a person may not be entitled to reemployment under the law.

For more information, call the Veterans' Hotline at **1-800-642-4838**.

## **Veterans' Preference for State Jobs**

The Michigan Civil Service Commission has information on state jobs. The Civil Service Commission provides for a veterans' hiring preference for Michigan state classified service through rules adopted by the commission. (Rule 3-8 provides for a preference for an eligible veteran or spouse of a veteran.)

An eligible veteran or spouse must register with the Civil Service Commission using form CS-1791, and include the required documentation.

## **Michigan Rehabilitation Services**

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) is a statewide network of vocational rehabilitation professionals developing customized workforce solutions that meet the needs of businesses and individuals with disabilities. To be eligible for services, an individual must have an existing physical or mental impairment, vocational or work related barriers due to a disability, and an assessment by a MRS counselor.



**1-800-605-6722**

**[www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/mrs](http://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/mrs)**

## **Service-Disabled Veteran Business Owners**

Service-disabled veteran business owners may be eligible for up to a 10% pricing preference when bidding for certain state government purchase contracts under MCL 18.1261 and for certain state construction contracts under MCL 18.1241.

**1-517-388-6012**

**[www.michigan.gov/dtmb/procurement/contractconnect/programs-and-policies/preferences/service-disabled-veteran-owned-business-preference](http://www.michigan.gov/dtmb/procurement/contractconnect/programs-and-policies/preferences/service-disabled-veteran-owned-business-preference)**

## **Apprenticeship Programs for Discharged Veterans**

### **U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration**

Michigan veterans can advance their employment prospects by learning a trade or skill through participation in VA and federal Department of Labor on-the-job training or apprenticeships. These programs typically involve entering into a training contract for a specific period of time with an employer or union. There are many on-the-job training and apprenticeship opportunities including software developer, financial analyst, electrical technician, and others.

**[www.dol.gov/agencies/eta](http://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta)**

**[www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/how-to-use-benefits/on-the-job-training-apprenticeships](http://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/how-to-use-benefits/on-the-job-training-apprenticeships)**

## **Helmets to Hardhats**

Helmets to Hardhats is a national, nonprofit program that helps transitioning military, guardsmen, and reservists find quality career opportunities in the construction industry. Most career opportunities offered by the program are connected to federally-approved apprenticeship training programs. Such training is provided by the trade organizations themselves at no cost to the veteran. No prior experience is needed. All participating trade organizations conduct three- to five-year, earn-while-you-learn apprenticeship training programs. Because these apprenticeship programs are regulated and approved at both federal and state levels, veterans can utilize their Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits to supplement their income while they are learning valuable skills and on-the-job training.



**1-866-741-6210**

**[www.helmetstohardhats.org](http://www.helmetstohardhats.org)**

# Health Care

## Health Care and Hospital Benefits – U.S. Federal Programs

Michigan has five full-service Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, including:

**LTC Charles S. Kettles VA Medical Center**

2215 Fuller Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

**800-361-8387/734-769-7100**

**John D. Dingell VA Medical Center**

4646 John R Street  
Detroit, MI 48201

**313-576-1000**

**Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center**

1500 Weiss Street  
Saginaw, MI 48602

**989-497-2500**

**Battle Creek VA Medical Center**

5500 Armstrong Road  
Battle Creek, MI 49037

**888-214-1247/269-966-5600**

**Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center**

325 East H Street  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

**906-774-3300**

In addition to full-service VA Medical Centers, there are numerous Community Based Outpatient Clinics located around the state (see page 25).

Veterans must enroll in VA health care to receive care at VA health facilities. Veterans can apply by completing VA form 10-10EZ or applying online.

**[www.vets.gov/health-care/how-to-apply](http://www.vets.gov/health-care/how-to-apply)  
<https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-10-10ez/>  
**1-877-222-VETS (8387)****

### **Basic Eligibility**

Service members who served in the active military, naval, or air service and were separated under any condition other than dishonorable may qualify for VA health care benefits. Current and former members of the Reserves or National Guard who were called to active duty by a federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty may be eligible for VA health care benefits as well.

Most veterans who enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to veterans who were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, for a hardship or "early out," or those who served prior to September 7, 1980. Since there are a number of other exceptions to the minimum duty requirements, VA encourages all veterans to apply so that it may determine their enrollment eligibility.

**[www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/](http://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/)**

## **Costs Overview**

Many veterans qualify for cost-free health care services based on a compensable service-connected condition or other qualifying factor. Other veterans may be required to pay copays for treatment of their nonservice-connection condition. While some veterans qualify for free health care based on certain eligibilities, most veterans will be required to complete a financial assessment at the time of enrollment to determine whether they are eligible for enrollment and for free health care services. If the veteran's gross household income (including spouse and dependents, if applicable) exceeds the VA income limits, the veteran may be required to pay a copay for health care services.

**[www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/cost-of-care/](http://www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/cost-of-care/)**

## **Services Requiring Copays**

Veterans whose income exceeds the established VA income limits as well as those who choose not to complete the financial assessment must agree to pay required copays to become eligible for VA health care services.

Some veterans qualify for free health care and/or prescriptions based on special eligibility factors. In addition, some services are exempt from inpatient and outpatient copays.

**[www.va.gov/health-care/copay-rates](http://www.va.gov/health-care/copay-rates)**

## **Veteran Community Care**

The Veteran Community Care program allows veterans to receive care from a community provider, and paid for by VA, when VA cannot provide the required care. Generally, veterans must receive approval from the VA prior to obtaining care from a community provider. Veterans will be charged a copayment for nonservice-connected care.

Veterans must meet one of six criteria to be eligible to receive community care:

- The veteran is in need of a service not available at a VA medical facility
- The veteran lives in a state or territory without a full-service VA medical facility
- The veteran has been grandfathered under the distance eligibility criteria of the former Veterans Choice Program
- The VA cannot provide care within certain designated access standards
- It is in the veterans best medical interest to receive community care
- A VA service line does not meet certain quality standards

**1-877-881-7618**

**[www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/index.asp](http://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/index.asp)**

## **Foreign Medical Program**

Through the Foreign Medical Program, VA will pay for health care services, medications, and durable medical equipment for the service-connected conditions of eligible veterans who are permanently relocating to a country under the program's jurisdiction.

**1-877-345-8179**

**[www.va.gov/communitycare/programs/veterans/fmp/index.asp](http://www.va.gov/communitycare/programs/veterans/fmp/index.asp)**



## **Online Health Services**

VA offers veterans, service members, and their dependents and caregivers their own personal health record through My HealthVet. With My HealthVet, veterans can access trusted health information to better manage personal health care and learn about other VA benefits and services.

**[www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov)**

## **Caregiver Programs and Services**

VA has long advocated for caregivers as vital partners in providing care worthy of the sacrifices by America's veterans and service members. VA medical centers house a designated caregiver support point of contact to coordinate caregiver activities and serve as a resource expert for veterans, their families, and VA providers. Several programs are available for veteran caregivers including:

- Caregiver support line **1-855-260-3274**
- Caregiver support coordinator
- Peer support mentoring
- Caregiver education and training programs
- Family support services

Enhanced services are available for eligible caregivers and may include respite care, health care insurance, counseling, travel benefits, and financial stipend under the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. Veterans may be eligible if they have a service-connected disability and are in need of personal care services for a minimum of six continuous months. This program can be applied for online or by filling out VA Form 10-10CG.

**1-855-260-3274**

**[www.caregiver.va.gov/support\\_benefits.asp](http://www.caregiver.va.gov/support_benefits.asp)**

For more information, contact a caregiver support coordinator located at the VA medical centers in Iron Mountain, Detroit, Saginaw, Battle Creek, or Ann Arbor.

**[www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov)**

**[www.caregiver.va.gov/support/New\\_CSC\\_Page.asp](http://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/New_CSC_Page.asp)**

## **Emergency Mental Health Care**

The Veterans Crisis Line provides help for veterans or service members who are experiencing a crisis and the individuals who are supporting them. The service is available regardless of enrollment in VA benefits or health care.

Phone: **988 and press 1**

Text: **838255**

Chat online: **[veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/chat](https://veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/chat)**

Same-day access to emergency mental health care is available at any VA health care facility nationwide. All VA medical centers offer emergency stabilization care for former service members who arrive at the facility with an emergent mental health need, no matter the individual's discharge status. Individuals with other-than-honorable discharge may receive care for up to 90 days on an inpatient, residential, or outpatient basis. If it is determined that the mental health condition is a result of a service-related injury, the service member becomes eligible for ongoing coverage for that condition, even with an other-than-honorable discharge.

## **Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program**

Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (MH RRTPs) provide residential rehabilitative and clinical care to eligible veterans with illnesses or rehabilitative care needs. Evidence-based treatment for mental illnesses, including PTSD and substance use disorders, is provided. An assessment is required to determine admission to MH RRTP facilities.

**1-877-222-8387**

**<https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/301>**

## **Dental Treatment**

VA dental care benefits are provided based on benefit classes. Veterans may be eligible for dental services if one of the following applies:

- Have a service-connected compensable dental disability or condition
- Are a former prisoner of war
- Have service-connected disabilities rated 100% disabling or are unemployable due to service-connected conditions
- Are participating in a VA vocational rehabilitation program
- Those who apply for dental care within 180 days of discharge or release (under conditions other than dishonorable) from a period of active duty of 90 days or more during the Persian Gulf War era
- Have a service-connected noncompensable dental condition or disability resulting from combat wounds or service trauma
- Have a dental condition clinically determined by VA to be currently aggravating a service-connected medical condition

- Are receiving outpatient care or are scheduled for inpatient care and require dental care for a condition complicating a medical condition currently under treatment
- Certain veterans enrolled in the VA Homeless Program for 60 consecutive days or more

**1-877-222-8387**

**<https://www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/dental-care/>**

## ***Nursing Home Care***

Veterans may obtain VA benefits to help pay for nursing home care. Nursing home settings include:

- Community Living Centers, owned and operated by VA
- State Veterans Homes, owned and operated by the states
- Community Nursing Homes, private organizations that contract with VA

Each program has admission and eligibility criteria specific to the program. Nursing home care is available to veterans who meet eligibility criteria involving service-connected status, level of disability, and income. VA-provided nursing home care for all other veterans is based on available resources.

## ***Readjustment Counseling***

Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that provide professional counseling to eligible veterans, service members, and their families. Individual, group, marriage, and family counseling is offered in addition to referral and connection to other VA or community benefits and services. Counseling is offered to help veterans adjust to civilian life and process traumatic events experienced in the military.



Veterans are eligible for readjustment counseling if they served in any combat theater or area of hostility, provided mortuary services or direct emergent medical care while on active duty, experienced military sexual trauma, served as a member of an unmanned aerial vehicle crew providing direct support to operations in a combat zone, served on active duty in response to a national emergency or disaster, participated in a drug interdiction operation while in the Coast Guard, are a current member of the Reserve with a behavior health condition or physiological trauma related to military service, or are pursuing a course of education covered by assistance benefits. Veterans who served in the active military during the Vietnam-era are eligible if they requested services at a Vet Center prior to January 2, 2013. Family members are also eligible if their participation would support the growth and goals of the veteran or service member.

Bereavement Counseling is available at community-based Vet Centers to family members of service members who died while on active duty, by suicide, or while the veteran was receiving Vet Center services.

The Vet Center Call Center is an around-the-clock confidential call center where combat veterans and their families can call to talk about their military experience or any other issue they are facing in their readjustment to civilian life.

**1-877-927-8387**

**[www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov)**





Additional information about PTSD is available at your nearest VA medical facility or one of the Michigan Vet Centers listed below:

**Macomb County Vet Center**

42621 Garfield Road, Suite 105  
Clinton Township, MI 48038  
**1-586-412-0107**

**Detroit Vet Center**

11214 E. Jefferson Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48214  
**1-313-822-1141**

**Grand Rapids Vet Center**

2050 Breton Road, S.E., Suite 100  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
**1-616-285-5795**

**Saginaw Vet Center**

5360 Hampton Place, Suite 200  
Saginaw, MI 48604  
**1-989-321-4650**

**Dearborn Vet Center**

19855 Outer Drive, Suite 105 W.  
Dearborn, MI 48124  
**1-313-277-1428**

**Escanaba Vet Center**

301 North 30th Street  
Escanaba, MI 49829  
**1-906-233-0244**

**Pontiac Vet Center**

44200 Woodward Avenue, Suite 108  
Pontiac, MI 48341  
**1-248-874-1015**

**Traverse City Vet Center**

4960 Skyview Court  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
**1-231-935-0051**

## **PTSD Coach**

PTSD Coach is a mobile application that provides information about PTSD, self-help, and symptom management tools and resources available to assist in dealing with post trauma effects.

Several other apps are also available including PTSD Family Coach, Mindfulness Coach, CPT (Cognitive Processing Therapy) Coach, and PE (Prolonged Exposure) Coach. To learn more about each app, see the website.

**[www.ptsd.va.gov/appvid/mobile](http://www.ptsd.va.gov/appvid/mobile)**

## **Traumatic Brain Injury**

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is an injury to the head that disrupts the normal functioning of the brain. It can be caused by direct or indirect involvement with an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), mortar, grenade, bullet, car accident, or fall.

It is sometimes called the invisible wound because the injury can be sustained without visible external wounds. The extent of damage from TBI might not be realized until after the service member is back home. Further, the symptoms may not be recognized as TBI and may even be confused with PTSD.

Veterans who use VA health care must undergo mandatory TBI screening if they served in combat operations. The Brain Injury Association of Michigan (BIAMI) works to improve the lives of those affected by brain injury through education, advocacy, research, and local support groups.

**1-800-772-4323 or 1-800-444-6443**

**[www.biami.org](http://www.biami.org)**

**[www.michigan.gov/tbi](http://www.michigan.gov/tbi)**

**[www.mentalhealth.va.gov/tbi](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/tbi)**

## **Coaching Into Care**

Coaching Into Care provides a “coaching” service for family and friends of veterans who become aware of a veteran’s post-deployment difficulties and need assistance in finding help for the veteran. Coaching involves helping the caller figure out how to motivate the veteran to seek services. The service is free and provided by licensed clinical social workers and psychologists. The goal of the service is to help the veteran and family members find the appropriate services in their community. All calls are confidential, except for cases in which the lives of the caller, the veteran, or others may be in danger.

**[www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching](http://www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching)  
1-888-823-7458**

## **Military Exposures**

Veterans may have been exposed to a range of chemical, physical, and environmental hazards during military service. VA offers health care benefits for veterans who may have been exposed to certain hazards, including Agent Orange related illnesses, Gulf War veterans’ illnesses, certain infectious diseases, conditions linked to toxic embedded fragments, TBI, injuries from cold or desert climates, rabies, radiation exposure related diseases, and other job related hazards.

**[www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures)**

## **Agent Orange, Radiation, Depleted Uranium, and Gulf War Exposures**

Certain veterans are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides used in support of military operations during their time of service. Nineteen illnesses are presumed by VA to be service-connected for such veterans.

Veterans eligible for the agent orange registry health exam include veterans who served in Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, those who served on smaller river patrol and swift boats (Brown Water Veterans), and Blue Water Navy veterans; veterans who served in or near the Korean Demilitarized Zone between September 1, 1967 and August 31, 1971; and certain air force and army veterans who served in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975. Other eligible veterans include those who may have been exposed to herbicides during a military operation or as a result of testing, transporting, or spraying herbicides for military purposes.

For veterans who participated in “radiation risk activities” as defined in VA regulations while on active duty, active duty training, or inactive duty training, certain conditions are presumed to be service-connected, including leukemia (except for chronic lymphocytic leukemia); several cancers; bronchiolo-alveolar carcinoma; multiple myeloma; lymphomas (other than Hodgkin’s disease), and primary liver cancer (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated).

To determine service connection for other conditions or exposures not eligible for presumptive service connection, VA considers factors such as the amount of radiation exposure, duration of exposure, elapsed time between exposure and onset of the disease, gender, family history, age at time of exposure, the extent to which a non-service-related exposure could contribute to disease, and the relative sensitivity of exposed tissue.

Gulf War veterans with chronic disabilities may receive disability compensation for chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses and/or medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses defined by a cluster of signs or symptoms. A disability is considered chronic if it has existed for at least six months.

The undiagnosed illnesses must have appeared either during active service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations or by December 31, 2026 and be at least 10% disabling.

**1-877-222-8387**

**[www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures)**

## **Health Care and Hospital Benefits – State of Michigan Veteran Navigators**

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services created the Veteran Navigator program to assist veterans and military families in connecting with federal, state, and local resources regardless of service era or discharge type. Veteran Navigators can be found statewide and can help veterans address serious issues, such as mental health, substance abuse, and housing.

**[www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/keep-mi-healthy/mentalhealth/veteran-navigators](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/keep-mi-healthy/mentalhealth/veteran-navigators)**

## **Michigan Veterans Homes**

Michigan Veterans Homes provide long-term nursing care and services for veterans in home-like settings. Individuals may be eligible to live in a Michigan Veterans Home if they are an honorably discharged veteran or a dependent of a veteran who is deemed eligible for admission or was deemed eligible at the time of the veteran's death. Individuals may also be qualified if they are eligible for USDVA healthcare or financial assistance for long-term nursing care. There are three Michigan Veterans Homes communities. For more information about each community, please contact the locations below:

### **Michigan Veteran Homes**

at Grand Rapids

2950 Monroe Avenue NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Main Line: **616-364-5300**

Admissions: **616-345-6110**

**[DMVA-GRHV-Admissions@michigan.gov](mailto:DMVA-GRHV-Admissions@michigan.gov)**

### **Michigan Veteran Homes**

DJ Jacobetti

425 Fisher Street

Marquette, MI 49855

Main Line: **906-226-3576**

Admissions: **906-225-6889**

**[DMVA-DJJHV-Admissions@michigan.gov](mailto:DMVA-DJJHV-Admissions@michigan.gov)**

### **Michigan Veteran Homes**

at Chesterfield Township

47901 Sugarbush Road

Chesterfield Township, MI 48047

Main Line: **586-210-7102**

Admissions: **586-210-7103**

**[DMVA-MVHCT-Admissions@michigan.gov](mailto:DMVA-MVHCT-Admissions@michigan.gov)**

## Veterans' Facility Ombudsman

The Michigan Veterans' Facility Ombudsman was created by Public Act 198 of 2016. The office is responsible for investigating complaints and concerns brought by legislators, residents, and family members regarding Michigan Veterans' Facilities.

**1-517-373-1347**

**MVFO@legislature.mi.gov**

**council.legislature.mi.gov/VeteranOmbudsman/mvfo**

## Veterans Treatment Court

Michigan's Veterans Treatment Courts address the need to better support Michigan veterans and assist them with their transition to civilian life. Veterans Treatment Courts use a hybrid integration of drug court and mental health court principles. The courts promote sobriety, recovery, and stability by collaborating with community and state-wide partners. To be eligible to participate in a Veterans Treatment Court, a veteran cannot be charged with a violent offense and must complete a confidential pre-admissions screening and evaluation assessment. Twenty-two district and six circuit courts have established veterans treatment courts as allowed by law.

## Homeless Veterans

The Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) program aims to reduce homelessness amongst veterans by providing various services related to housing.

HCHV Contract Residential Services Programs allow VA medical centers to contract with community-based agencies to provide short-term residential care and treatment to eligible veterans who need an immediate housing placement as they seek permanent housing or additional care and services.

The VA also uses Stand Down events to reach homeless veterans to provide food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, counseling, and referrals. Stand Downs are typically one- to three-day events and are held in numerous cities each year.

### **HCHV contacts:**

VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System:	<b>734-845-5058</b>	
Battle Creek VA Medical Center:	<b>269-966-5600</b>	x31648
John D. Dingell VA Medical Center, Detroit:	<b>313-576-1000</b>	x64249
Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center, Iron Mountain:	<b>906-221-4898</b>	
Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, Saginaw:	<b>989-497-2500</b>	x11686

The **National Call Center for Homeless Veterans** assists homeless veterans, veterans at risk of homelessness, and their families and supporters by providing information about programs and services that help combat homelessness. Trained VA staff members are available 24-hours a day, seven days a week to assess callers' needs and connect them with appropriate resources.

**1-877-424-3838**

**[www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp)**

The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing** program works to provide both vouchers for rental assistance and case management and clinical services for homeless veterans.

[www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp)

Through the **Supportive Services for Veteran Families** program, VA aims to improve very low-income veteran families' housing stability by providing supportive services to families in, or transitioning to, permanent housing. VA funds community-based organizations to provide eligible veteran families with outreach, case management, and assistance in obtaining benefits. Several Michigan organizations have received funding to assist Michigan veterans.

Alger Marquette Community Action Board	<b>1-906-228-6522</b>	x207
Community Action Agency	<b>1-800-491-0004</b>	
Community Rebuilders	<b>1-616-458-5102</b>	x125
Disability Network Oakland & Macomb	<b>1-810-335-3163</b>	
Mid Michigan Community Action Agency	<b>1-877-213-5955</b>	
Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency, Inc.	<b>1-844-900-0500</b>	
Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency	<b>1-517-599-6954</b>	
Southwest Counseling Services	<b>1-313-481-7915</b>	
Volunteers of America of Michigan, Inc.	<b>1-877-509-8387</b>	
Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency	<b>1-313-388-9799</b>	

**Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)** provides veterans with realistic and meaningful vocational opportunities, encouraging successful reintegration into the community at the veterans' highest functional level. An individual rehabilitation plan is developed for each veteran allowing veterans to work for pay, learn new job skills, and relearn successful work habits.

[www.va.gov/health/cwt](http://www.va.gov/health/cwt)

The **Transitional Work** program matches participants to temporary work assignments to gain experience within an industry. While program participants are not considered employees, they may receive a base wage for the work they perform. The program is a collaboration between VA medical centers and the business industry, with the intent for participants to transition from the vocation work assignments to competitive employment.

The **Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans** program offers outreach, referrals, and short-term case management assistance for incarcerated veterans who may be at risk for homelessness upon their release.

[www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp)

## **Michigan Programs for Homeless Veterans**

If you are in immediate need of shelter, call the **Homeless Shelter Hotline** at **1-800-A-SHELTER (1-800-274-3583)**. They will arrange for a temporary emergency shelter or motel stay. **2-1-1** also provides assistance with locating shelter, affordable housing, and rent and utility assistance.

[mi211.org/get-help](http://mi211.org/get-help)



## **Veterans Housing Program – Volunteers of America**

Volunteers of America Michigan is the largest contract provider of veterans services in Mid-Michigan. Volunteers of America Michigan operates a 50-bed overnight emergency shelter for men and a 14-bed overnight emergency shelter for women and children in the Lansing area.

Volunteers of America Michigan offers additional services for veterans statewide.

**[www.voami.org/veterans](http://www.voami.org/veterans)**

**Michigan Volunteers of America,  
Michigan Housing Department**  
21415 Civic Center Drive, Suite 306  
Southfield, MI 48076  
Phone: **1-248-945-0101**

**Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness**  
15851 S. Old US-27  
Building 30, Suite 315  
Lansing, MI 48906  
Phone: **1-517-485-6536**  
Fax: **1-517-485-6682**  
**[www.mihomeless.org](http://www.mihomeless.org)**

## **Women Veterans Health Care**

VA provides women veteran health care, which includes services regarding general health and wellness, reproductive health, mental health, and violence and abuse. Women veterans who served on active duty in the military and were discharged under honorable conditions may be eligible for these VA health care benefits. Women Veterans Call Center representatives are available for women veterans to call, text, or chat online with to discuss eligibility, enrollment, or setting up medical appointments.

**Women Veterans Call Center**

Toll-Free: **1-855-829-6636**

**[www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov)**



# Michigan VA Medical Facilities and Outpatient Clinics

Various U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities operate in Michigan. They are listed below by the city in which they are located.

## Full Service Medical Facilities

**LTC Charles S. Kettles  
VA Medical Center**  
2215 Fuller Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
**734-769-7100**

**Battle Creek VA Medical Center**  
5500 Armstrong Road  
Battle Creek, MI 49037  
**269-966-5600**

**John D. Dingell VA Medical Center**  
4646 John R Street  
Detroit, MI 48201  
**313-576-1000**

**Oscar G. Johnson  
VA Medical Center**  
325 East H Street  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801  
**906-774-3300**

**Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center**  
1500 Weiss Street  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
**989-497-2500**

**Green Road VA Clinic**  
2500 Green Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
**734-769-7100**

**Piquette Street VA Clinic**  
301 Piquette Street  
Detroit, MI 48202-3513  
**313-576-1580**

**Century Avenue VA Clinic**  
620 Century Ave., Southwest #101  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-4977  
**616-356-1746**

## Outpatient and community-based outpatient clinics, and veterans centers

**Alpena**  
180 N. State Avenue 49707  
**989-356-8720**

**Ann Arbor**  
3800 Packard Road 48105  
**734-222-7600**

**Bad Axe**  
1142 S. Van Dyke Road  
Suite 100 48413  
**989-269-7445**

**Benton Harbor**  
1275 Mall Drive 49022  
**269-934-9123**

**Cadillac**  
1909 N. Mitchell Street 49601  
**231-775-4401**

**Clare**  
11775 N. Isabella Road 48617  
**989-386-8113**

**Dearborn**  
19855 Outer Drive  
Suite 105 W 48124  
**313-277-1428**

**Detroit**  
11214 E. Jefferson Avenue 48214  
**313-822-1141**

**Escanaba**  
301 North 30th Street 49829  
**906-233-0244**

**Flint**  
2360 S. Linden Road 48532  
**810-720-2913**

**Gaylord**  
2782 S. Otsego Avenue 49735  
**989-732-7525**

**Grand Rapids**  
620 Century Ave., Southwest  
Suite 101 49503  
**616-356-1746**

**Grand Rapids**  
2050 Breton, S.E.  
Suite 100 49546  
**616-285-5795**

**Grayling**  
1680 Hartwick Pines Road 49738  
**989-344-2002**

**Hancock**  
787 Market Street  
Suite 9 49930  
**906-482-7762**

**Ironwood**  
629 W. Cloverland Drive  
Suite 1 49938  
**906-932-0032**

**Jackson Michigan Center**  
4328 Page Avenue 49254  
**517-764-3609**

**Lansing**  
5656 S. Cedar Street 48911  
**517-267-3925**

**Mackinaw City**  
5739 Highway M-68 49749  
**231-436-5176**

**Macomb County**  
42621 Garfield Road, Suite 105  
Clinton Township, MI 48038  
**586-412-0107**

**Manistique**  
813 E. Lakeshore Drive 49854  
**906-341-3420**

**Marquette**  
1414 W. Fair Avenue  
Suite 285 49855  
**906-226-4618**

**Menominee**  
1110 10th Avenue  
Suite 101 49858  
**906-863-1286**

**Muskegon**  
5000 Hakes Drive 49441  
**231-798-4445**

**Oscoda**  
5671 Skeel Avenue  
Suite 4 48750  
**989-747-0026**

**Pontiac**  
44200 Woodward Avenue  
Suite 208 48341  
**248-332-4540**

**Saginaw**  
4241 Barnard Road 48603  
**800-406-5143**

**Sault Ste. Marie**  
509 Osborn Boulevard  
Suite 306 49783  
**906-253-9383**

**Wyoming**  
5838 Metro Way 49519  
**616-249-5300**

**Yale**  
7470 Brockway Road 48097  
**810-387-3211**

# Monetary Benefits

## National Resource Directory

The National Resource Directory provides access to thousands of services and resources to support recovery, rehabilitation, and community reintegration for wounded warriors and veterans, and their families and caregivers. The Directory includes extensive information for veterans seeking resources on VA benefits, education, employment, family support, health, housing, and transportation.

**1-800-827-1000**  
**www.nrd.gov**

## eBenefits

Although many features have moved to VA.gov, eBenefits allows veterans to apply for, view, and manage certain VA and Department of Defense benefits.

**www.ebenefits.va.gov**  
**1-800-827-1000**

## VA Disability Compensation

VA disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service. The service of the veteran must have been terminated through separation or discharge under conditions that were other than dishonorable. Disability compensation varies with the degree of disability and the number of dependents, and is paid monthly.

2023 VA Disability Compensation (no dependents)	
Disability Percentage	Monthly Payment
10 percent	\$ 165.92
20 percent	327.99
30 percent	508.05
40 percent	731.86
50 percent	1,041.82
60 percent	1,319.65
70 percent	1,663.06
80 percent	1,933.15
90 percent	2,172.39
100 percent	3,621.95

Veterans with disability ratings between 30 and 100 percent are eligible for additional allowances for a spouse and for each minor child, child 18-23 years of age attending school, child disabled before 18 years of age, and dependent parent. The amount depends on the disability rating.

**www.va.gov/disability/compensation-rates**

## Pensions

Pension benefits are available to certain veterans based on need. To be eligible for pension benefits, a veteran must be 65 or older, or totally and permanently disabled, or a patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care, or receiving social security disability benefits. Service requirements also apply. The veteran's discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable and their disability must be for reasons other than their own willful misconduct. Payments are made to bring the veteran's total income, including other retirement or Social Security income, to a level set by Congress. Unreimbursed medical expenses may reduce countable income for VA purposes.

**www.benefits.va.gov/pension**

## Social Security Benefits

Social Security provides expedited processing of disability claims for disabled veterans.

Monthly retirement, disability and survivor benefits under Social Security are payable to veterans and dependents if the veteran has earned enough work credits under the program. In addition, a veteran may qualify at age 65 for Medicare's hospital insurance and medical insurance. Medicare protection is available to people who have received Social Security disability benefits for 24 months, and to insured people and their dependents who need dialysis or kidney transplants, or who have amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease).

Those 65 or older and those who are blind or otherwise disabled may be eligible for monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments if they have little or no income or resources. States may supplement the federal payments to eligible persons and may disregard additional income.

Upon the veteran's death, a one-time payment may be made to the veteran's spouse or child.

**1-800-772-1213**  
[www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)

## Additional Monetary Benefits for Eligible Military Retirees

**Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)** provides military retirees a monthly compensation that is intended to replace some or all of their retired pay that is withheld due to receipt of VA disability compensation.

Disabilities related to in-service exposure to hazards (e.g., Agent Orange, Gulf War illnesses, radiation exposure) for which VA awards disability compensation are considered combat-related for CRSC purposes.

[www.va.gov/resources/combat-related-special-compensation-crsc/](http://www.va.gov/resources/combat-related-special-compensation-crsc/)

### Air Force

#### CRSC Program Office

550 C Street West  
 Joint Base San Antonio – Randolph, TX 78150  
 Phone: **1-210-565-2089**

### Army

#### Department of the Army

U.S. Army Human Resources Command  
 ATTN: AHRC-PDP-C (CRSC), Dept. 480  
 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue  
 Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408  
 Phone: **1-888-276-9472**

### Coast Guard

#### Commander (PSC-PSD-MED)

Personnel Service Center  
 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE  
 Washington D.C. 20593-7200  
 Phone: **1-202-795-6642**

### Navy and Marine Corps

#### Department of the Navy

Secretary of the Navy Council of Review  
 Boards

ATTN: Combat-Related Special  
 Compensation Branch  
 720 Kennon Street SE, Suite 309  
 Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5023  
 Phone: **1-833-330-6622**

## Monetary Benefits

**Disability Compensation for Presumptive Conditions** – VA presumes that specific disabilities diagnosed in certain veterans were caused by their military service. If one of these conditions is diagnosed in a veteran in one of these groups, VA presumes that the circumstances of his/her service caused the condition, and disability compensation can be awarded. Certain time limits for diagnosis apply depending on the disease.

All veterans who develop Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, at any time after separation from service may be eligible for compensation for that disability.

**[www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/presumption.pdf](http://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/presumption.pdf)**





# Home Loan and Tax Credits

## Home Loan Guaranties – U.S. Federal Programs

Veterans Affairs loan guaranties may be made to eligible service members, veterans, reservists, National Guard, and unmarried surviving spouses for the purchase of homes, condominiums, and manufactured homes and for refinancing loans. VA home loans are usually handled by private lenders, with the VA “standing behind” the loan to guarantee a portion of it. Applicants must have a good credit rating, have an income sufficient to support mortgage payments, and agree to live in the property.

A **VA loan guaranty** can be used to:

- Buy or build a home
- Buy an approved residential condominium
- Repair, alter, or improve a veteran's home
- Refinance an existing home loan
- Buy a manufactured home and/or a lot
- Install a solar heating or cooling system or other energy-efficient improvements



### Service Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

Veterans may be eligible for financing if they served during the following time periods:

**WWII** 09/16/40 to 07/25/47

**Post WWII** 07/26/47 to 06/26/50

**Korean Conflict** 06/27/50 to 01/31/55

**Post Korean Conflict** 02/01/55 to 08/04/64

**Vietnam Era** 08/05/64 to 05/07/75 or beginning 02/28/61 for veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam

**Post Vietnam Era** 05/08/75 to 08/01/80

**Persian Gulf Era** 08/02/90 to the present

**Reservists** and **National Guard** members are eligible if they were activated after August 1, 1990, served 6 years and have 90 days of active service, and received an honorable discharge.

Persons on active duty are eligible after serving 90 continuous days. Eligibility must be reestablished upon discharge or release from active duty.

Unless exempt, a funding fee must be paid to VA at the time of loan closing. The fee may be paid in cash or included in the loan. Closing costs such as VA appraisal, credit report, loan processing fee, title search, title insurance, recording fees, transfer taxes, survey charges, or hazard insurance may not be included in the loan.

### **VA Assistance to Veterans in Default**

VA urges all veterans who are encountering problems making their mortgage payments to speak with their servicers as soon as possible to explore options to avoid foreclosure. Contrary to popular opinion, servicers do not want to foreclose because foreclosure costs a lot of money. Depending on a veteran's specific situation, servicers may offer any of the following options to avoid foreclosure:

- Repayment Plan
- Special Forbearance
- Loan Modification
- Short Sale
- Deed-in-Lieu of Foreclosure
- Additional time to arrange a private sale

If the loan servicer is unable to help, the VA has loan technicians in eight Regional Loan Centers and a special servicing center who take an active role exploring all options to avoid foreclosure. Veterans with **VA-guaranteed home loans** can call **1-877-827-3702** to reach the nearest VA office where loan specialists are prepared to discuss potential ways to help save the loan. Veterans with non-VA-guaranteed loans may also call this number. However, VA does not have the legal authority to intervene on a non-VA-guaranteed borrower's behalf.

Veterans may be able to refinance a non-VA-guaranteed loan with a VA-guaranteed loan which may be helpful in situations where the veteran is at risk of defaulting. Finally, VA warns homeowners behind in their payments to be careful about accepting help from strangers. Contact your mortgage lender or the Loan Guaranty Division for assistance.

### **Specially Adapted Homes**

VA has two grants available for veterans with certain service-connected disabilities to assist in either building a new specially adapted home, adapting a home they already own, or in purchasing an existing home to modify and remodel to meet their disability requirements. Eligible veterans may receive a grant up to three times the sum total not to exceed the maximum dollar amount. The maximum dollar amount for the Specially Adapted Housing (**SAH**) grant is \$109,986 for fiscal year 2023. The maximum dollar amount for the Special Home Adaptation (**SHA**) grant is \$22,036 for fiscal year 2023. Eligible veterans should apply early.

**Specially Adapted Housing (SAH)**  
**Special Home Adaptation (SHA)**  
**sahinfo.vbaco@va.gov**  
**1-877-827-3702**



# State of Michigan Benefits

## Tax Benefits

The **Home Heating Credit** is designed to assist low-income families and seniors in paying their home heating costs. Homesteads can include permanent homes, rented apartments, and mobile homes. Qualified disabled veterans or their spouses may be eligible for an increased credit. Applications for the Home Heating Credit are accepted from mid to late January through September 30 of each year.

The **Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit** is available if the homestead is located in Michigan, the owner was a Michigan resident for at least six months during the tax year, and the owner pays property taxes or rents a house or apartment in the state. Not all taxpayers are eligible for this tax credit. Some veterans are eligible for an increased credit (see MI-1040CR-2). Homestead Property Tax Credit forms must be filed by the time state income tax forms are due each April. Tax forms MI-1040CR-2 or MI-1040CR can be found online.

<https://www.michigan.gov/taxes/property/ind-exempt-defer/homestead-property-tax-credit-information>

The **Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption** allows certain honorably discharged, disabled veterans (or their surviving unremarried spouses) to apply for an exemption for their homestead from property taxation. To qualify, a veteran must meet one of these three qualification categories:

- The disabled veteran must have been determined by the United States VA to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate
- The disabled veteran must have received a certificate from the United States VA, or its successors, certifying that he or she is receiving or has received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing
- The disabled veteran must have been rated by the United States VA as unemployable

A qualified veteran must annually submit an affidavit and a certificate from the VA confirming the monetary assistance for specially adapted housing. Contact your township supervisor or other assessing officer for further information and deadlines.

[www.michigan.gov/taxes/property/exemptions/veterans/disabled-veterans-exemption](http://www.michigan.gov/taxes/property/exemptions/veterans/disabled-veterans-exemption)

MICHIGAN Homestead Property Tax Credit Claim MI-1040CR			
print in blue or black ink. Print numbers like this: 0123456789 - NOT like this: 0147			
1. First Name	M.I.	Last Name	2. Filer's Full Social Security No. (6 digits)
Return, Spouse's First Name	M.I.	Last Name	3. Spouse's Full Social Security No. (6 digits)
4. Address (Number, Street, P.O. Box). If using a P.O. Box, you must complete line 45.			
5. Owner	State	ZIP Code	4. School District Code (5 digits - 89999)
6. Check the box(es) for which you or your spouse qualify (excluding dependents). If you qualify for both, see instructions.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Age 65 or older; or an unremarried spouse of a person who was 65 or older at the time of death.		b. <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf, blind, hemiplegic, paraplegic totally and permanently disabled.	
5. FILING STATUS:	7. 2015 RESIDENCY STATUS:		*If you checked box "c," enter dates of Michigan residency. Enter dates as MM-DD-YYYY (Example: 04-15-14 to 04-15-15)
Single	a. <input type="checkbox"/> Resident		FILER
	FROM: 2015		

**Contact the Michigan Department of Treasury for further information on the Homestead Property Tax Credit.**

## **Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI)**

Active duty members and reservists of uniformed services are automatically enrolled for up to \$500,000 under the Service Members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI). Service members pay a monthly premium that is taken out of their base pay. The current basic SGLI premium rate is 6 cents per \$1,000 of insurance coverage, and includes an additional \$1 per month for traumatic injury protection coverage.

**[www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/sgli](http://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/sgli)**

At the time of separation from service, SGLI can be converted to either Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) or a commercial plan through participating companies. You must apply to convert SGLI to VGLI within one year and 120 days from discharge. If you submit your application within 240 days after discharge you do not need to submit evidence of good health. Those who apply after the no-health period are required to answer questions about their health.

Under VGLI, veterans may be eligible to receive between \$10,000 and \$500,000 in term life insurance benefits, depending upon the amount of coverage the veteran had when they left the military. Rates are based upon the veteran's age and amount of coverage.

**1-800-419-1473**

**[www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/vgli](http://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/vgli)**

Service members who are totally disabled at the time of separation are eligible for free SGLI Disability Extension of up to two years. Individuals covered under SGLI Disability Extension are automatically converted to VGLI subject to payment of premiums. They must apply to the Office of Service Members' Group Life Insurance (OSGLI) for the SGLI Disability Extension.

**[www.va.gov/life-insurance/totally-disabled-or-terminally-ill](http://www.va.gov/life-insurance/totally-disabled-or-terminally-ill)**

Spousal and dependent coverage cannot at present be carried over into the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program; however, spouses have the option of converting their coverage to a private life insurance policy with a participating company within 120 days of the service member leaving active duty or if the service member drops the primary SGLI coverage.

**[www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/fsgli](http://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/fsgli)**

## **Veterans Affairs Life Insurance**

Veterans Affairs Life Insurance provides up to \$40,000 in whole life insurance coverage to veterans who applied for VA disability compensation before turning 81 years old, received a service-connected disability rating after turning 81, and applied for VALife within two years of getting a disability rating, even if the rating is 0%. Premium amounts depend upon age and coverage. Benefits, including cash value, will begin two years after a veteran applies and pays the required premiums.

**1-800-669-8477**

**[www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/valife/](http://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/valife/)**

## **Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI)**

VMLI is mortgage protection insurance that helps pay off a mortgage in the event of a severely disabled veteran's death. The maximum amount of mortgage life insurance available to severely disabled veterans granted a specially adapted housing grant is \$200,000. Protection is automatic when the veteran submits required information, assuming he/she does not decline coverage. Coverage terminates when the mortgage is paid off. If a mortgage is disposed of, VMLI may be obtained on the mortgage of another home. Payment is to the current mortgage lender.

[www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/vmli](http://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/vmli)

## **Assistance with Government Life Insurance Programs**

For assistance with life insurance programs, call the **VA Life Insurance Center** toll-free **1-800-669-8477** or visit [www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov). For VGLI call **1-800-419-1473**. For all other VA life insurance programs call **1-800-669-8477**. Specialists are available 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time to discuss premium payments, insurance dividends, changes of address, policy loans, naming beneficiaries, and reporting the death of an insured.

For assistance with death benefit claims, mail completed **form SGLV8283** to:

### **OSGLI**

PO Box 41618

Philadelphia, PA 19176-9913





# Dependent and Survivor Benefits

## Burial Benefits

### *Headstones and Markers*

Veterans and retired Reservists and National Guard service members are eligible for an inscribed headstone or marker for their unmarked grave at any cemetery. VA will deliver a headstone or marker at no cost, anywhere in the world. For eligible veterans or service members who died on or after November 1, 1990 and are buried in a private cemetery, VA may furnish a government headstone or marker (for marked or unmarked graves). A medallion to affix to an already existing privately-purchased headstone or marker for those who served on or after April 6, 1917 can be requested as well.

Spouses and dependent children are eligible for a government headstone or marker only if they are buried in a national or state veterans cemetery.

Before ordering, check with the cemetery to ensure that the government-furnished headstone or marker will be accepted. All installation fees at private cemeteries are the responsibility of the applicant.

**1-800-697-6947**

**[www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)**

**[www.va.gov/burials-memorials/memorial-items/headstones-markers-medallions](http://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/memorial-items/headstones-markers-medallions)**

### *Presidential Memorial Certificates*

Certificates signed by the President are issued upon request to recognize the military service of honorably discharged deceased veterans. Next of kin, relatives, and friends may request Presidential Memorial Certificates.

**1-202-632-7300**

**[www.cem.va.gov/facts/Presidential\\_Memorial\\_Certificates.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/facts/Presidential_Memorial_Certificates.asp)**

### *Burial Flags*

Generally, VA will furnish a U.S. burial flag to memorialize veterans who received an other than dishonorable discharge. The flag is provided to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased veteran and is given to the next-of-kin, as a keepsake, after the funeral service. Families of veterans buried in national cemeteries may donate the burial flags of their loved ones to be flown on patriotic holidays.

**[www.cem.va.gov/burial\\_benefits/burial\\_flags.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/burial_flags.asp)**



## ***Military Funeral Honors***

Upon request, the Department of Defense will provide military funeral honors for eligible deceased veterans. Military funeral honors ceremonies include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of taps by two or more uniformed military persons.

Family members should inform their funeral directors if they want military funeral honors.

**1-800-342-9647**

**[www.cem.va.gov/military\\_funeral\\_honors.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/military_funeral_honors.asp)**

## ***Reimbursement of Burial Expenses***

VA burial allowances are flat-rate monetary benefits paid for an eligible veteran's burial and funeral costs. Eligible surviving spouses of record are paid automatically upon notification of a veteran's death. With some exceptions, the burial allowance for a non-service-connected death is \$300, and \$2,000 for a death connected to military service. Individuals are eligible for this benefit if they have not been reimbursed by another program or entity after paying for a veteran's burial or funeral, and the veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

**1-800-827-1000**

**[www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-special-burial.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-special-burial.asp)**

## ***Burial in VA National Cemeteries***

Burial in a VA national cemetery is available for eligible veterans, their spouses and dependents at no cost to the family and includes the gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, perpetual care and a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Veterans who served in active duty may also receive a burial flag and military funeral honors, upon request.

**1-800-535-1117**

**[www.va.gov/burials-memorials/eligibility](http://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/eligibility)**

**[www.va.gov/burials-memorials/schedule-a-burial/](http://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/schedule-a-burial/)**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs currently has space available in two national cemeteries in Michigan:

### **Fort Custer National Cemetery**

15501 Dickman Road

Augusta, MI 49012

Phone: **1-269-731-4164**

Fax: **1-269-731-2428**

### **Great Lakes National Cemetery**

4200 Belford Road

Holly, MI 48442

Phone: **1-248-328-0386**

Fax: **1-248-328-0612**

## ***State Veterans' Burial Expenses***

Under Michigan Public Act 235 of 1911, eligible veterans or their spouses, who meet residency requirements and asset limits, may qualify to have \$300 of their burial expenses paid for by the County Board of Commissioners or the Board of County Auditors. The Soldiers' Relief Commission of each county has the responsibility for investigating each claim.

**[legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-Act-235-of-1911](http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-Act-235-of-1911)**

## Survivor Benefits for Spouse and Children – U.S. Federal Benefits

### ***Survivors Pension***

The Survivors Pension benefit, which may also be referred to as death pension, is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried child(ren) of a deceased veteran with wartime service.



[www.va.gov/pension/survivors-pension/](http://www.va.gov/pension/survivors-pension/)

### ***Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)***

**DIC** is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease or while in the line of duty. Eligible survivors may include a spouse, parents, and unmarried children under the age of 18, or 23 if attending school. The amount of benefits received depends upon the type of survivor.

[www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation](http://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation)

### ***Aid and Attendance and Housebound Benefits***

Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for VA Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits. These benefits provide an additional monthly amount to the veteran's VA pension. VA Aid and Attendance is available for veterans who need help performing daily activities, have to stay in bed due to illness, are a patient in a nursing home due to their disability causing the loss of mental or physical abilities, or have limited eyesight. Housebound benefits are available for veterans who spend most of their time in their home because of a permanent disability.

[www.va.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound](http://www.va.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound)



# Financial Emergencies and Veterans Resources Programs – State of Michigan

## **Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Emergency Grant Program**

Financial assistance may be available to certain Michigan veterans serving at least 180 days of active duty who were discharged under honorable conditions. The program assists with an unforeseen situation that causes a temporary or short-term financial emergency or hardship that a grant will resolve. Examples of such needs include delay in unemployment benefits or other income or unexpected hospitalizations that cause reductions in income to meet household needs. The grants may assist with housing, utilities, car payments, or insurance or medical assistive devices. Coordination is made with other agencies that may also assist with these types of needs.

**1-800-642-4838**

**[www.michigan.gov/mvaa/other-benefits-and-resources/panel-state/panel-content](http://www.michigan.gov/mvaa/other-benefits-and-resources/panel-state/panel-content)**

## **State of Michigan – Department of Health and Human Services**

The Department of Health and Human Services provides cash assistance to families with children and pregnant women to help them pay for living expenses such as rent, heat, utilities, clothing, food, and personal care items. Assistance in finding a job or developing needed job skills, help with transportation, child care, and other needs related to employment and training may also be provided.

**[www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/cash](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/cash)**

## **Soldiers Relief Commission**

In some counties, emergency relief grants are available to Michigan veterans who do not meet Michigan Veterans Trust Fund criteria. Funds are limited, so the commission makes an effort to refer veterans who are eligible to other sources of financial assistance.

Contact a **County Veterans Service Officer** online.

**1-800-642-4838**

**[www.michigan.gov/mvaa/county-filter-search-locations](http://www.michigan.gov/mvaa/county-filter-search-locations)**

## **Additional State Benefits**

### **Hunting and Fishing Licenses**

Fees for fishing and hunting licenses are waived for disabled veterans. Only licenses that do not require a lottery can be obtained free of charge. Proof of eligibility must be presented at time of purchase and carried when hunting or fishing. Disabled hunters are those who have been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service for a disability other than blindness.

**[www.michigan.gov/mvaa/other-benefits-and-resources/panel-state/recreation-a](http://www.michigan.gov/mvaa/other-benefits-and-resources/panel-state/recreation-a)**

*Each organization has its own set of procedures to follow. Contact them directly for their requirements.*





## Recreation Passport

The Recreation Passport sticker provides access to all state parks, state recreation areas, and state boat launches. This does not include local, county, municipal, or metropolitan parks or recreation areas.

Vehicles with the following license plates do not require a Recreation Passport to obtain free entry:

- 100% disabled veteran
- Ex-POW
- Medal of Honor

[www.michigan.gov/mvaa/other-benefits-and-resources/panel-state/recreation-a](http://www.michigan.gov/mvaa/other-benefits-and-resources/panel-state/recreation-a)

## State ID and Drivers Licenses

Honorably discharged veterans may request their drivers license or state ID card to include a special veteran designation. This will allow veterans to take advantage of many discounts and services available to them that require proof of military service. The designation is available when applying for an original or renewal Michigan license or ID at no additional charge. If added at another time, correction fees will apply.



[www.michigan.gov/mvaa/other-benefits-and-resources/panel-state/plates-ids](http://www.michigan.gov/mvaa/other-benefits-and-resources/panel-state/plates-ids)

## Federal ID

VA provides digital Veteran ID Cards for veterans who served on active duty and received an honorable or general discharge. Veteran ID Cards can be used to prove military service to obtain discounts offered to veterans.

[www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/vic](http://www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/vic)

## Michigan National Guard Family Program

Many veterans serve in the Michigan National Guard. If you are a member of the National Guard, there are resources and information focused on your unique needs.

The National Guard has established Family Assistance Centers across the state to provide National Guard members or active duty military members stationed in Michigan, and their families, a point of contact when the service member is deployed.

**1-517-481-9889**

[www.minalnationalguard.com/fp\\_subdomain/fac](http://www.minalnationalguard.com/fp_subdomain/fac)

The Michigan National Guard Family fund was created to assist Air and Army National Guard families who experience sudden and unexpected financial difficulties by providing temporary financial assistance.

[www.minalnationalguard.com/fp\\_subdomain/family-fund](http://www.minalnationalguard.com/fp_subdomain/family-fund)



## **Energy Assistance Programs**

The **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** provides federal funds to each state to assist low-income families with energy costs. In Michigan, the LIHEAP block grant is used for the following programs:

- Home Heating Credit
- State Emergency Relief (SER)
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

[www.michigan.gov/heatingassistance](http://www.michigan.gov/heatingassistance)

## **Additional Assistance Programs:**

- **Army Emergency Relief**  
[www.armyemergencyrelief.org](http://www.armyemergencyrelief.org)
- **Air Force Aid Society**  
[www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org)
- **Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society**  
[www.nmcrs.org](http://www.nmcrs.org)
- **Coast Guard Mutual Assistance**  
[www.cgmahq.org](http://www.cgmahq.org)

### **Within Local Communities:**

- **American Red Cross**  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or  
[www.redcross.org/get-help/military-families/services-for-veterans](http://www.redcross.org/get-help/military-families/services-for-veterans)
- **Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
[www.vfw.org/assistance](http://www.vfw.org/assistance)
- **The American Legion**  
[www.legion.org/financialassistance](http://www.legion.org/financialassistance)
- **The Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors**  
[www.macvc.net](http://www.macvc.net)

## Michigan Veterans Affairs Agencies Contact Information by County

Alcona . . . . .	989-724-9510	Lake . . . . .	231-745-6003
Alger . . . . .	906-387-1635	Lapeer . . . . .	810-667-0256
Allegan . . . . .	269-673-0501	Leelanau . . . . .	231-995-6070
Alpena . . . . .	989-354-9671	Lenawee . . . . .	517-264-5335
Antrim . . . . .	231-533-8499	Livingston . . . . .	517-546-6338
Arenac . . . . .	989-846-9080	Luce . . . . .	906-293-4890
Baraga . . . . .	906-524-5454	Mackinac . . . . .	906-643-9411
Barry . . . . .	269-945-1296	Macomb . . . . .	586-469-5315
Bay . . . . .	989-895-4190	Manistee . . . . .	231-299-1414
Benzie . . . . .	231-882-0034	Marquette . . . . .	906-485-1996
Berrien . . . . .	269-983-7111, ext. 8224	Mason . . . . .	231-583-2028
Branch . . . . .	517-279-4322	Mecosta . . . . .	231-592-0124
Calhoun . . . . .	269-969-6735	Menominee . . . . .	906-863-5691
Cass . . . . .	269-445-4472	Midland . . . . .	989-832-6843
Charlevoix . . . . .	231-547-7220	Missaukee . . . . .	231-839-4752
Cheboygan . . . . .	231-627-8833	Monroe . . . . .	734-240-3287
Chippewa . . . . .	906-635-6370	Montcalm . . . . .	989-831-7477
Clare . . . . .	989-539-3273	Montmorency . . . . .	989-785-8043
Clinton and Ingham . . . . .	517-887-4331	Muskegon . . . . .	231-724-7143
Crawford . . . . .	989-344-3861	Newaygo . . . . .	231-689-7218
Delta . . . . .	906-786-7228	Oakland . . . . .	248-858-0785
Dickinson . . . . .	906-774-2820	Oceana . . . . .	231-873-6834
Eaton . . . . .	517-543-3740	Ogemaw . . . . .	989-345-5170
Emmet . . . . .	231-348-1780	Ontonagon . . . . .	906-884-6204
Genesee . . . . .	810-257-3068	Osceola . . . . .	407-742-8455
Gladwin . . . . .	989-426-4891	Oscoda . . . . .	989-786-0355
Gogebic . . . . .	906-667-1110	Otsego . . . . .	989-731-7575
Grand Traverse . . . . .	231-995-6070	Ottawa . . . . .	616-393-8387
Gratiot . . . . .	989-875-5258	Presque Isle . . . . .	989-734-0302
Hillsdale . . . . .	517-437-3630	Roscommon . . . . .	989-275-6047
Houghton . . . . .	906-482-0102	Saginaw . . . . .	517-927-6692
Huron . . . . .	989-269-8911	Sanilac . . . . .	810-648-0212
Ingham and Clinton . . . . .	517-887-4331	Schoolcraft . . . . .	906-341-3669
Ionia . . . . .	989-538-0172	Shiawassee . . . . .	989-743-2231
Iosco . . . . .	989-362-6571	St. Clair . . . . .	810-989-6945
Iron . . . . .	906-265-3819	St. Joseph . . . . .	269-467-5512
Isabella . . . . .	989-317-4093	Tuscola . . . . .	989-673-8148
Jackson . . . . .	517-788-4425	Van Buren . . . . .	269-657-8200
Kalamazoo . . . . .	269-373-5361	Washtenaw . . . . .	734-973-4540
Kalkaska . . . . .	231-258-3370	Wayne . . . . .	313-224-5045
Kent . . . . .	616-632-5722	Wexford . . . . .	231-775-6654
Keweenaw . . . . .	906-934-2354		

[www.michigan.gov/mvaa/county-filter-search-locations](http://www.michigan.gov/mvaa/county-filter-search-locations)

*Note: Phone numbers subject to change.*

## Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Contact Information by County

Alcona .....	989-724-9000	Lake .....	231-745-8159
Alger .....	906-628-7002	Lapeer .....	810-667-0800
Allegan .....	844-464-3447	Leelanau .....	231-941-3900
Alpena .....	989-354-7200	Lenawee .....	517-264-6300
Antrim .....	231-533-8664	Livingston .....	517-548-0200
Arenac .....	989-846-5500	Luce .....	906-293-5144
Baraga .....	906-275-5050	Mackinac .....	906-643-9550
Barry .....	269-948-3200	Macomb .....	586-412-6100
Bay .....	989-895-2100	Manistee .....	231-723-8375
Benzie .....	231-882-1330	Marquette .....	906-228-9691
Berrien .....	844-464-3447	Mason .....	231-845-7391
Branch .....	517-279-4200	Mecosta .....	231-796-4300
Calhoun .....	269-966-1284	Menominee .....	906-863-9965
Cass .....	269-445-0200	Midland .....	989-835-7040
Charlevoix .....	231-348-1600	Missaukee .....	231-779-4500
Cheboygan .....	231-627-8500	Monroe .....	734-243-7200
Chippewa .....	906-635-4100	Montcalm .....	989-831-8400
Clare .....	989-539-4260	Montmorency .....	989-785-4218
Clinton .....	989-224-5500	Muskegon .....	231-733-3700
Crawford .....	989-348-7691	Newaygo .....	231-689-5500
Delta .....	906-786-5394	Oakland .....	248-975-5400
Dickinson .....	906-779-4100	Oceana .....	231-873-7251
Eaton .....	517-543-0860	Ogemaw .....	989-345-5135
Emmet .....	231-348-1600	Ontonagon .....	906-813-7006
Genesee .....	810-760-7300	Osceola .....	231-796-4300
Gladwin .....	989-426-3300	Oscoda .....	989-826-4000
Gogebic .....	906-663-6200	Otsego .....	989-732-1702
Grand Traverse .....	231-941-3900	Ottawa .....	616-394-7200
Gratiot .....	989-875-5181	Presque Isle .....	989-734-2108
Hillsdale .....	517-439-2200	Roscommon .....	989-366-2300
Houghton .....	906-482-0500	Saginaw .....	989-758-1100
Huron .....	989-269-9201	Sanilac .....	810-648-4420
Ingham .....	517-887-9400	Schoolcraft .....	906-341-2114
Ionia .....	616-527-5200	Shiawassee .....	989-725-3200
Iosco .....	989-362-0300	St. Clair .....	810-966-2000
Iron .....	906-265-9958	St. Joseph .....	269-467-1200
Isabella .....	989-772-8400	Tuscola .....	989-673-9100
Jackson .....	517-780-7400	Van Buren .....	269-621-2800
Kalamazoo .....	269-337-4900	Washtenaw .....	734-481-2000
Kalkaska .....	231-258-1200	Wayne .....	313-456-1000
Kent .....	616-248-1000	Wexford .....	231-779-4500
Keweenaw .....	906-337-3302		

[www.michigan.gov/mdhhs](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs)

Note: Phone numbers subject to change.

## Veterans Service Organizations

**Detroit Region - Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building**

477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit 48226

### **American Legion**

Phone: **1-313-964-6640**

### **AMVETS**

Phone: **1-313-471-3982**

### **Disabled American Veterans**

Phone: **1-313-964-6595**

### **Paralyzed Veterans of America**

Phone: **1-313-471-3996**

### **Veterans of Foreign Wars**

Phone: **1-313-964-6510**

### **Vietnam Veterans of America**

Phone: **1-313-961-9568**

## Veterans Membership Organizations

### **Marine Corps League**

[mclnational.org](http://mclnational.org)

**703-207-9588**

### **Military Order of the Purple Heart**

[purpleheart.org](http://purpleheart.org)

**703-642-5360**

**NOTE:** *Local veterans organizations may have a service officer who can help fill out forms or advise on benefits.*

## Federal Agencies

### **Department of Justice**

#### **Civil Rights Division**

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530

Phone: **1-202-514-3847**

### **U.S. Department of Labor -Veterans**

#### **Employment and Training (USDOL/VET)**

200 Constitution Ave NW, Room S-1325

Washington, DC 20210

Phone: **1-202-693-4700**

[www.dol.gov/agencies/vets](http://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets)

201 N Washington Square, Suite 120

Lansing, MI 48913

Phone: **1-517-241-9840**

### **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA)**

810 Vermont Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20420

Phone: **1-800-698-2411**

McNamara Building,

12th Floor

477 Michigan Avenue

Detroit, MI 48226

Phone: **1-800-827-1000**

## Michigan State Agencies

[www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov)

### **Michigan Department of Civil Rights**

#### **Detroit Service Center**

Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600  
3054 W. Grand Boulevard  
Detroit, MI 48202

Phone: **1-313-456-3700**

Toll-Free: **1-800-482-3604**

Fax: **1-313-456-3701**

TTY: **1-877-878-8464**

E-mail: [MDCRServiceCenter@michigan.gov](mailto:MDCRServiceCenter@michigan.gov)

#### **Grand Rapids Office**

State Office Building, 4th Floor  
350 Ottawa, NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Phone: **1-616-356-0380**

TTY: **1-616-356-0391**

Fax: **1-616-356-0399**

#### **Lansing Office**

Capitol Tower Building  
110 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 800  
Lansing, MI 48933

Phone: **1-517-335-3165**

Fax: **1-517-241-0546**

TTY: **1-517-241-1965**

E-mail: [MDCR-INFO@michigan.gov](mailto:MDCR-INFO@michigan.gov)

#### **Division on Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing**

Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600  
3054 W. Grand Boulevard  
Detroit, MI 48202

VP: **1-313-437-7035**

Toll-Free Voice/TTY: **1-877-499-6232**

Fax: **1-313-456-3721**

E-mail: [DODDBHH@michigan.gov](mailto:DODDBHH@michigan.gov)

### **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**

333 S. Grand Avenue  
P.O. Box 30195  
Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: **1-517-241-3740**

Michigan Relay: **711**

### **Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council**

Lewis Cass Building, Garden Level  
P.O. Box 30037

Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: **1-517-335-3158**

Fax: **1-517-335-2751**

TDD: **1-517-335-3171**

E-mail: [mdhhs-dd-council@michigan.gov](mailto:mdhhs-dd-council@michigan.gov)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MIDDCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/MIDDCouncil)

### **Michigan Rehabilitation Services**

1048 Pierpont Drive, Suite 1  
Lansing, MI 48913

Phone: **1-517-241-5324**

Toll-Free: **1-800-605-6722**

Email: [LEO-MRS-CustomerAssistance@michigan.gov](mailto:LEO-MRS-CustomerAssistance@michigan.gov)

### **Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity**

#### **Bureau of Services for Blind Persons**

702 W. Kalamazoo Street  
P.O. Box 30652

Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: **1-517-241-1100**

Fax: **1-517-335-5140**

Toll-Free: **1-800-292-4200**

### **Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**

3411 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Lansing, MI 48906

Phone: **1-517-481-8083**

#### **Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency**

3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Bldg. 32  
Lansing, MI 48906

Phone: **1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838)**

Email: [MVAAResourceCenter@michigan.gov](mailto:MVAAResourceCenter@michigan.gov)

### **Michigan Department of Treasury**

Individual Income Tax  
Treasury Building

Lansing, MI 48922

Phone: **517-636-4486**

TTY: **Dial 1** for assistance



## Issues with Claim Assistance

### *How to file a complaint*

If a veteran thinks a person or organization assisting with a VA benefit claim has done something illegal or unethical, a complaint should be filed with the Office of General Counsel in the VA's office or the Federal Trade Commission. The Office of General Counsel is authorized to investigate complaints and remove an individual's VA accreditation. A complaint should include a detailed summary of allegations of misconduct by the individual or organization, a completed and signed VA Form 3288 and additional information pertinent to the complaint.

**1-202-461-7699**

**[www.va.gov/ogc/accreditation.asp](http://www.va.gov/ogc/accreditation.asp)**

## Additional Resources

### *Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents*

If you would like more detailed information on veteran benefits and services, contact:

#### **United States Department of Veterans Affairs**

810 Vermont Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20420

Phone: **1-800-827-1000**

TTY: **711**

**[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)**

# RESOURCES

## **Helpful Phone Numbers:**

Bereavement Counseling . . . . .	1-202-461-6530
Education . . . . .	1-888-442-4551
Headstones and Markers . . . . .	1-800-697-6947
Health Care . . . . .	1-877-222-8387
Homeless Veterans . . . . .	1-877-424-3838
Home Loans . . . . .	1-877-827-3702
Life Insurance . . . . .	1-800-669-8477
Pension Management Center . . . . .	1-877-294-6380
Special Health Issues . . . . .	1-800-749-8387
Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) . . . . .	711
VA Benefits . . . . .	1-800-827-1000
Veterans Crisis Line . . . . .	988 Press 1
Women Veterans . . . . .	1-855-829-6636

## **Forms, Documents:**

VA Forms [www.va.gov/vaforms](http://www.va.gov/vaforms)

## **DD-214 Lost Documents:**

For service members whose home of record at the time of discharge from the military was Michigan or who elected to have their DD-214 sent to Michigan, DD-214 requests can be made through MVAA. Complete and submit a DD-214 form online at [www.michigan.gov/mvaa/forms/dd-214-form](http://www.michigan.gov/mvaa/forms/dd-214-form) or call **1-800-MICH-VET**. MVAA will need the veteran's full name, date of birth, and social security number to search the database. Note that MVAA can only release certified copies to the veteran or next of kin after verification of identity.

Discharge documents are also available from the National Personnel Records Center (PRC) online military personnel records systems. The electronic application can be accessed online.

[www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel](http://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel)

## Resources

### **Helpful Links:**

#### **VA Home Page**

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

#### **Education Benefits**

[www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

#### **Health Care**

[www.va.gov/health-care/](http://www.va.gov/health-care/)

#### **Transitioning Service Members**

[www.oefoif.va.gov](http://www.oefoif.va.gov)

#### **Home Loans Guaranty**

[www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans](http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans)

#### **Records**

[www.archives.gov/veterans](http://www.archives.gov/veterans)

#### **Compensation Rates**

[www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp)

#### **Mental Health**

[www.mentalhealth.va.gov](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov)

#### **Life Insurance**

[www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov)

#### **Women Veterans Health Care**

[www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov)

#### **My HealtheVet**

[www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov)

#### **VA Fact Sheets**

[www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp)

#### **Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency**

[michigansbdc.org](http://michigansbdc.org)

#### **TRICARE**

[www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil)

#### **Military OneSource**

[www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil)

#### **Department of Defense**

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

#### **Military Funeral Honors**

[www.cem.va.gov/military\\_funeral\\_honors.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/military_funeral_honors.asp)

#### **Arlington National Cemetery**

[www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil)

#### **Burial and Memorial Benefits**

[www.cem.va.gov/burial\\_benefits/index.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/index.asp)

### **Employment Assistance**

#### **Web Addresses:**

#### **Veteran Employment Services**

[www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/wd/panel-veterans](http://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/wd/panel-veterans)

#### **Veterans' Preference**

[www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/unique-hiring-paths/veterans/](http://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/unique-hiring-paths/veterans/)

#### **Federal Government Job Openings**

[www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)

#### **Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service**

[www.dol.gov/agencies/vets](http://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets)

### **Business Assistance**

#### **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

#### **Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization**

810 Vermont Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20420

Phone: **1-866-584-2344**

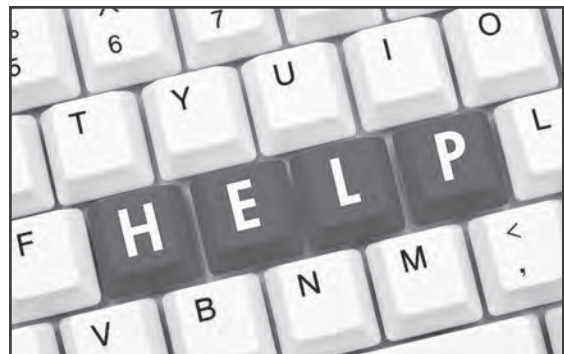
[www.va.gov/OSDBU](http://www.va.gov/OSDBU)

#### **Michigan Small Business Development Center**

[www.sbdcmichigan.org](http://www.sbdcmichigan.org)

#### **MDHHS Veteran Navigators**

[www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/keep-mi-healthy/mentalhealth/veteran-navigators](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/keep-mi-healthy/mentalhealth/veteran-navigators)



# Of Interest to Veterans

## Veteran Holidays

### **Veterans Day**

Veterans Day is an opportunity to publicly commemorate the contributions of living veterans. Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar congressional action.

If World War I had indeed been “the war to end all wars,” November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. Realizing that peace was equally preserved by veterans of World War II and Korea, Congress decided to make the day an occasion to honor all those who have served America. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day. (Historically, the first Veterans Day parade was held in 1953 in Emporia, Kansas.)

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

### **Memorial Day**

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873.

By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South continued to honor their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). It is now celebrated as a federal holiday on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90-363) to ensure a three-day weekend for Federal holidays).

## Flag Etiquette

Federal law stipulates many aspects of flag etiquette. The section of law dealing with American flag etiquette is generally referred to as the Federal Flag Code. Some general guidelines from the Federal Flag Code answer many of the most common questions.

### **Flag Displayed Outdoors**

#### **Over the Middle of the Street**

The flag should be suspended vertically with the union or blue field to the north on an east and west street or to the east on a north and south street.



### ***Flown at Half-Staff***

The flag should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should again be raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. "Half-staff" means the flag has been lowered to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff.

### ***Flown on the Same Halyard with Non-National Flags***

The American flag should always be at the peak. When flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No flag or pennant may be placed above or to the right of the flag of the United States.

### ***Suspended Over a Sidewalk***

The flag may be suspended from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk. The flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

### ***From a Staff Projecting Horizontally or at an Angle***

The flag may be projected from a window sill, balcony, or front of a building, with the union of the flag placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.

### ***In a Parade with Other Flags***

The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag, or flags, should be either on the marching right (that is, the flag's own right), or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

Crepe streamers may be affixed to spear heads or flagstaffs in a parade only by order of the President of the United States.

### ***With Non-National Flags***

The flag of the United States should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.

### ***With Other National Flags***

When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

### ***With Another Flag Against a Wall from Crossed Staffs***

The American flag should be on the right (the flag's own right which is the viewer's left) and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.



## **Flag Displayed Indoors**

### ***From a Staff in a Church or Public Auditorium on a Podium***

The flag of the United States should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he/she faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker (to the right of the audience).

### ***From a Staff in a Church or Public Auditorium off the Podium***

Custom – not the Flag Code – holds that the flag of the United States should hold the position of superior prominence, as part of the audience, in the position of honor at the audience's right.

### ***Used to Cover a Casket***

The American flag should be so placed on a casket that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder of the deceased. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

### ***Other than Being Flown from a Staff***

The flag should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right (that is, to the observer's left). When displayed in a window, it should be displayed in the same way (that is, with the union to the left of the observer in the street). When festoons, rosettes, or drapings are desired, bunting of blue, white, and red should be used, but never the flag itself.

Read a more comprehensive set of Flag Code etiquette rules for display of the American flag.

**[www.uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title4/chapter1&edition=prelim](http://www.uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title4/chapter1&edition=prelim)**

P.L. 110-181 amended section 9, title 4, USC, to allow veterans to render the hand salute to the United States flag. The section reads: "During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes."

### ***State Policy for Flying American Flags at Half-Staff***

State policy for displaying the United States flag at half-staff as a mark of respect for the memory of military personnel who are killed in the line of duty is found in Executive Order 2013-10.

**[www.michigan.gov/whitmer/news/flag-honors/executive-order-no2013-10](http://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/news/flag-honors/executive-order-no2013-10)**

As recognized under Proclamation 2003-4, the flag of the United States shall be displayed at half-staff throughout the State of Michigan on a day designated by the Governor when a member of the Michigan National Guard or a Michigan resident servicing as a member of the United States Armed Forces is killed in the line of duty.

When an order providing for the flag to be displayed at half-staff on a statewide basis is issued, Michigan residents, businesses, schools, local governments, and other organizations also are urged to display the flag at half-staff. Flag honor news can be found online.

[www.michigan.gov/whitmer/news/press-releases](http://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/news/press-releases)

## Flag Disposal

The **United States Flag Code** provides:

*“The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.”*

Many veterans service organizations conduct ceremonies for the destruction of unserviceable flags by burning. Such ceremonies may be done on June 14, Flag Day, to mark the dignity and solemnity of the occasion. Some local governments may also conduct these ceremonies.

In practice, for individuals who wish to destroy a flag in poor condition, this should be done discreetly so the act of destruction is not perceived as a protest or desecration.



## **Michigan Congressional Delegation**

### ***United States Senate***

Like every state, Michigan has two Senators in the United States Senate. You will find contact information at the Senate website.

[www.senate.gov/states/MI/intro.htm](http://www.senate.gov/states/MI/intro.htm)

### ***United States House of Representatives***

Michigan currently has 13 Representatives in the United States House of Representatives. This number is determined by our population and may be adjusted following each decennial census.

You may obtain contact information about our 13 United States Representatives at the House of Representatives website.

[www.house.gov/representatives#state-michigan](http://www.house.gov/representatives#state-michigan)

## **Michigan Governor and Lieutenant Governor**

Every state has one Governor and one Lieutenant Governor elected every 4 years. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor are limited to a total of 8 years in office (2, 4-year terms). Contact information for Michigan's Governor and Lieutenant Governor may be found online.

[www.michigan.gov/gov](http://www.michigan.gov/gov)

[www.michigan.gov/lsgov](http://www.michigan.gov/lsgov)

## **Michigan State Legislature**

### ***Michigan State Senate***

The Michigan State Senate is composed of 38 State Senators whose districts are apportioned by population.

Contact information for your State Senator may be found on the State Senate website.

[www.senate.michigan.gov/senators/senatorinfo\\_complete.html](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/senators/senatorinfo_complete.html)

### ***Michigan House of Representatives***

The Michigan House of Representatives is composed of 110 State Representatives whose districts are apportioned by population.

Contact information for your State Representative may be found on the State House of Representatives website.

[www.house.mi.gov/AllRepresentatives](http://www.house.mi.gov/AllRepresentatives)

## Of Interest to Veterans

### **Letters to any of the State Senators or State Representatives may be addressed:**

The Honorable (name of Senator)  
State Senator  
Michigan State Senate  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

The Honorable (name of Representative)  
State Representative  
Michigan House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

### **Committee Meetings**

You may wish to contact State Senators or State Representatives on the committee that is designated to review proposed legislation regarding veterans affairs. The name of this committee may change over time.

#### **Senate - Veterans and Emergency Services**

[committees.senate.michigan.gov/details?com=VETEMS&sessionId=15](http://committees.senate.michigan.gov/details?com=VETEMS&sessionId=15)

#### **House of Representatives - Military, Veterans and Homeland Security**

[www.house.mi.gov/Committee/HMILI](http://www.house.mi.gov/Committee/HMILI)

# Notes





# Notes



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*The information in this publication is available,  
upon request, in an alternative, accessible format.*

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For more information regarding publications from the Michigan Legislature,  
scan this QR code with your smartphone.